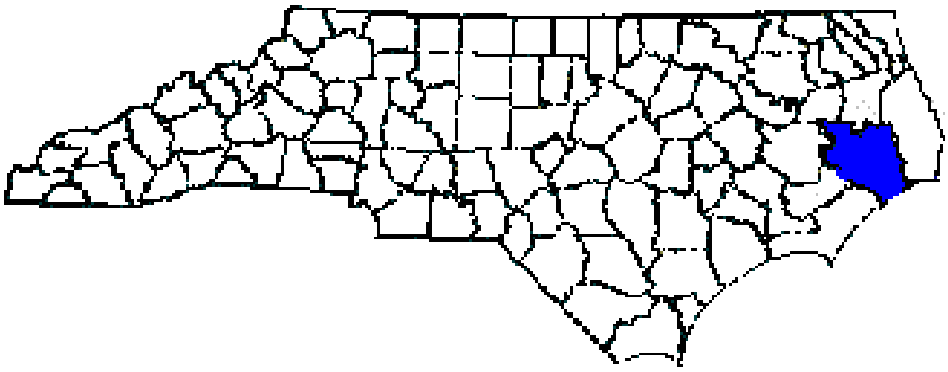
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2004



Scranton Creek Bridge Mitigation Site
Hyde County
TIP No. B-3193

Prepared By:
Natural Systems Unit & Roadside Environmental Unit
North Carolina Department of Transportation
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SUMMARY

The Scranton Creek Bridge Mitigation Site is located in Hyde County. The site was left to naturally re-establish vegetation in 2002 and was designed as mitigation for wetland impacts associated with bridge project B-3193.

The mitigation encompasses approximately 0.60 acres total of wetland restoration. The restoration effort involved the removal of the temporary roadway fill related to the detour. The restoration effort involved allowing the temporarily impacted area to naturally re-establish vegetation. The area is being monitored to ensure that it re-attains wetland jurisdictional status. No hydrologic monitoring is required for this project; however, vegetation monitoring is required for three years.

After the third year of monitoring, the Scranton Creek Bridge Site shows by visual observation, that the vegetation is re-establishing naturally, and that the impacted area is re-attaining jurisdictional status.

NCDOT recommends to discontinuing vegetation monitoring of this site.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Description

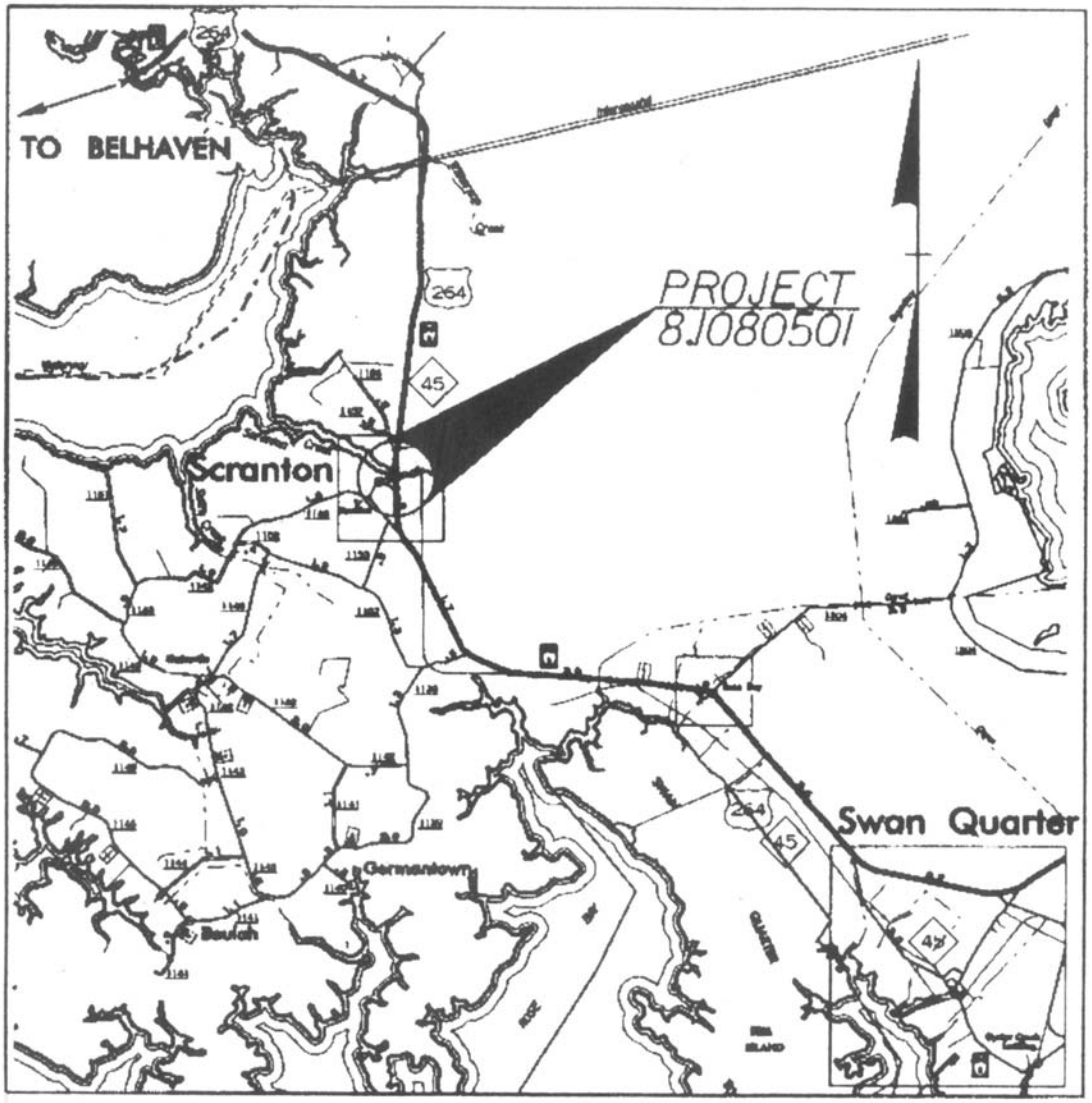
The Scranton Creek Bridge Mitigation Site is located at Bridge No. 29 on US 264/NC 45 in Hyde County (Figure 1). The site consists of approximately 0.60 acres of mitigation for wetland impacts associated with project B-3193.

1.2 Purpose

In order for a mitigation site to be considered successful, a site must meet vegetation success criteria. This report details the vegetation monitoring in 2004 at the Scranton Creek Bridge mitigation Site. Hydrologic monitoring was not required for the site.

1.3 Project History

March 2002	Construction Completed
December 2002	Vegetation Monitoring (1 year)
August 2003	Vegetation Monitoring (2 year)
September 2004	Vegetation Monitoring (3 year)



VICINITY MAP

FIGURE 1

B- 3193

HYDE COUNTY

2.0 VEGETATION: SCRANTON CREEK BRIDGE MITIGATION SITE (YEAR 3 MONITORING)

2.1 Success Criteria

Success Criteria states that the impacted area where the onsite detour was removed shall be allowed to naturally re-establish vegetation. The area is being monitored to ensure that it re-attains wetland jurisdictional status at the end of three years.

2.2 Description of Species

No species of trees were planted. The site was graded down to its original contours and elevation and left to re-establish vegetation naturally.

2.3 Results of Vegetation Monitoring

The impacted area where the onsite temporary detour was removed is re-attaining jurisdictional status due to the re-establishment of natural vegetation. This natural vegetation includes *Juncus* sp., water grass, smartweed, indian grass, black willow, *Baccharis* sp., wax myrtle, nutsedge, fennel, cattail, and other marsh grass species. Vegetation in the disturbed area is similar in type and density as in the adjacent undisturbed areas.

2.4 Conclusions

There were approximately 0.60 acres total of wetland restoration on site. There were no plots established on the site. By visual observation the Scranton Creek Bridge Site shows that natural re-vegetation is occurring and that the impacted area is re-attaining jurisdictional status.

3.0 Overall Conclusions and Recommendations

NCDOT's report from the past two years stated that the planted bottomland hardwood species were meeting success criteria. The original construction plans stated that the site was to be planted with bottomland hardwood species. NCDOT reviewed permit information regarding questions about the planted species that were brought up at the 2003 annual monitoring meeting. Neither 404 nor CAMA permits required any plantings. After discussing with field personnel it became apparent that the site was never planted. The site has, however, re-attained jurisdictional status through natural regeneration and is covered in many different marsh grass species.

NCDOT proposes to discontinue vegetation monitoring at the Scranton Creek Bridge Site.

APPENDIX A

SITE PHOTOS

Scranton Creek Bridge

Photo 1

Photo 2

Photo 3

Photo 4

Photo 5

Photo 6

2004